2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sample is blood or obtained from blood.

3. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate-binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, [or] antibody fragments [thereof], lectins, [and] mammalian [or] carbohydrate-binding proteins, microbial carbohydrate-binding proteins, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (a) a panel of more than one type of lectin is used as a carbohydrate binding ligand.

5. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate-binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of *Sambucus nigra* lectin, *Sambucus sielbodiana* lectin, wheatgerm agglutinin, *Maackia amurensis* lectin, *E. coli* K99 lectin, *Helicobacter pylori* lectin, *Ricinus communis* lectin, [and] *Crotalaria junctae* lectin, [and] anti-sialic acid antibodies, and mixtures thereof.

6. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation step (b) is by precipitation, centrifugation, filtration or chromatographic methods.

7. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate-binding ligand is immobilized.

8. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an ion exchange step to remove or deplete carbohydrate-carrying transferrins in the sample is performed prior to step (a).

9. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the determination of] determining the transferrin content in step (c) is achieved by turbidometric or nephelometric means.